In the claims:

Kindly amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of making a beverage container constructed from at least two panels of flexible laminate web material, said method comprising:

providing at least a first panel thereof having an outer structural layer, a barrier layer and an inner sealant layer,

~~in which said~~ wherein the inner sealant layer ~~is provided at half its final thickness, said final thickness being approximately 80-90 microns,~~ has a thickness,

~~said method comprising the steps of:~~

punching a hole through all ~~the~~ of said layers of said first panel, and

~~supplementing said inner sealant layer with molten sealant applied by extrusion coating,~~ extrusion coating a molten supplemental sealant layer along the entire outer surface of said inner sealant layer, thereby occluding said punched hole and simultaneously providing an integrally-formed specific area of weakness for ease of puncture,

~~said molten sealant supplement completing said final thickness of said inner sealant layer, while eliminating the need for an additional closure sheeting patch~~,

wherein said inner sealant layer and said supplemental sealant layer together have a combined thickness of approximately 80-90 microns, and said inner sealant layer is provided at one-half of said combined thickness,

~~such that when said first panel is cooled, said panels can be joined to thereby form a drinking pouch.~~

cooling said first panel;

joining said at least two panels together to thereby form a drinking pouch.

2.(currently amended) A method of making a beverage container as described in claim 1, wherein said inner sealant layer ~~is polyethylene in a first desired thickness and said extruded molten sealant~~ and said supplemental sealant layer ~~is extruded molten~~ are formed of polyethylene.

3.(currently amended) A method of making a beverage container according to claim 1, wherein the beverage container further comprises a bottom formed from a bottom web, and including the steps of conveying a bottom ~~sheeting~~ web in ~~the conveying direction~~ between the ~~front and rear side sheeting webs~~ at least two panels, and welding the bottom ~~sheeting~~ web in part to the ~~front and rear side sheeting webs~~ at least two panels.

4.(currently amended) A method of making a beverage container according to claim 2, wherein the beverage container further comprises a bottom formed from a bottom web, and including the steps of conveying a bottom ~~sheeting~~ web in ~~the conveying direction~~ between the at least two panels ~~front and rear side sheeting webs~~, and welding the bottom ~~sheeting~~ web in part to the at least two panels ~~front and rear side sheeting webs~~.

5.(currently amended) A method of producing a beverage container made out of flexible laminate web material, the method comprising:

providing said flexible laminate web material including an external structural layer, an air/moisture barrier layer and an inner sealant layer,

~~said method comprising using a movable directed~~ providing a movable laser source for directing a laser beam at said flexible laminate web material for scoring and simultaneously weakening said flexible laminate web material,

making a first pass with the movable laser source for directing the laser beam to score a first line in the surface of the external structural layer of said flexible laminate web material, and making a second pass with the movable laser source for directing the laser beam to score a second, intersecting line in the surface of the external structural layer of said flexible laminate web material with the point of intersection of the first and second lines providing

~~enabling at least two passes over the same point, to provide~~ a puncture point on a surface of said flexible laminate web material and ~~at the intersection of at least two beam paths across said web material~~, simultaneously weakening the inner sealant layer of the flexible laminate web material,

such that the external structural layer is scored and the inner sealant beneath said puncture point is weakened by heat transmission causing thermal changes therein, by at least double scoring of said puncture point.

6.(canceled)

7.(currently amended) A method of producing a beverage container in accordance with claim 5, further comprising the step of providing indicia at the point of intersection of the first and second scored lines for marking the puncture point. ~~wherein said intersection of laser score paths is provided against a highlighted background area on said web material.~~

8.(canceled)

9.(canceled)

10.(canceled)

11.(canceled)

12.(currently amended) A drinking bag container made out of flexible laminate web material including an external structural layer, an air/moisture barrier layer and an inner sealant layer, wherein said drinking bag container has ~~having~~ a structural focal weakness in the external surface of the web material, said focal weakness comprising the point of intersection of at least two intersecting ~~double-scored laser score~~ laser-scored paths, ~~provided~~ and said focal weakness providing a puncture point for insertion of a drinking straw.

13. (currently amended) A drinking bag container made out of flexible laminate web material according to claim 12, wherein said point of intersection of said ~~laser score~~ laser-scored paths is provided with indicia for marking the puncture point ~~provided in a highlighted area~~ on said web material.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (canceled)

17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A drinking bag container ~~made according to the method of claim 1,~~ having at least two panels of flexible laminate web material,
~~at least one of said two panels of flexible laminate web material having a structural layer, and a barrier layer, said structural layer and said barrier layer having a hole passing therethrough and further having an extruded sealant layer applied onto said barrier layer and occluding said hole passing through said barrier layer and said structural layer.~~
the first panel thereof having an outer structural layer, a barrier layer and an inner sealant layer; and an integrally-formed specific area of weakness for ease of puncture is provided in said first panel by a hole through all of said layers of said first panel, wherein said hole is occluded by a supplemental sealant layer present upon said hole

and present along the entire outer surface of said inner sealant layer;
and wherein said inner sealant layer and said supplemental sealant layer together have a combined thickness of approximately 80-90 microns, and said inner sealant layer is provided at one-half of said combined thickness.

19.(currently amended) A drinking bag container in accordance with claim 18, further comprising a second supplemental sealant layer present upon said first supplemental sealant layer ~~applied onto said extruded sealant layer~~.

20.(currently amended) A method of making a beverage container constructed from at least two panels of flexible laminate web material, said method comprising:
providing at least a first panel ~~providing a front side web~~ thereof having an outer structural layer and a barrier layer, ~~said method comprising the steps of~~:

punching a hole through all of said ~~the~~ layers of ~~the~~ said ~~front side web;~~ first panel, and

extrusion laminating ~~covering said punched hole by forming an inner sealant layer using extrusion lamination, said inner sealant layer comprised of two layers, a molten adherence layer and a solid outer layer,~~ ~~said~~ a molten adherence layer along the entire outer surface of said first panel ~~being spread uniformly on to the sheet~~, thereby occluding said punched hole ~~the entire surface of the front side web, including said hole~~ and simultaneously

providing an integrally-formed specific area of weakness for ease of puncture,

placing a supplemental ~~said~~ outer layer ~~being placed onto~~ upon said adherence layer, wherein ~~during the production process, using~~ said adherence layer adheres ~~as an adhesive in order to stick~~ the ~~web~~ layers together; ~~and eliminating the need for an additional closure sheeting patch.~~

cooling said first panel;

joining said at least two panels together to thereby form a drinking pouch.